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REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing and reconsideration of the application identified in the above caption, pursuant to and consistent with 37 C.F.R. §1.111 and in light of the remarks which follow, are respectfully requested.

By the above amendments, claim 30 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 24 has been amended to recite that the glass fiber insulation blanket comprises at least one longitudinally extending separable connector connecting two adjacent longitudinal sections of the glass fiber insulation blanket; the facing comprises at least one line of weakness that is longitudinally aligned with the at least one separable connector; and the asphalt coating layer is not present in regions between the at least one longitudinally extending separable connector and the at least one line of weakness. Support for such amendments can be found in the instant specification at least at page 10, line 5 to page 14, line 6, e.g., page 13, lines 6-15, taken in connection with FIGS. 7-12. Support for newly added dependent claims 32 and 33 can be found at least at page 10, lines 20-30 and page 13, lines 6-15.

In the Official Action, claims 10, 13, 14, 24, 25, 30 and 31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 3,140,220 (*Walter*) in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0030018 (*Weinstein et al*) and U.S. Patent No. 7,037,955 (*Timcik et al*). Claims 23 and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over *Walter*, *Weinstein et al* and *Timcik et al*, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,496,566 (*Szwarc*). Claim 28 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over *Walter*, *Weinstein et al* and *Timcik et al*, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,331,350 (*Taylor et al*).

Withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested for at least the following reasons.

Walter discloses a thermal insulation having a body made of insulating material bonded to a sheet liner by an interfacial adhesive, such as asphalt, such that edge bands extend along the length of the sheet liner. See FIG. 1 and col. 2, lines 31-43. A method and apparatus of forming a plurality of the narrow insulation strips of *Walter* are shown in FIGS. 6 and 8.

Walter does not disclose or suggest each feature recited in independent claim 24. For example, *Walter* does not disclose or suggest a glass fiber insulation blanket comprising at least one longitudinally extending separable connector connecting two adjacent longitudinal sections of the glass fiber insulation blanket, and wherein a facing comprises at least one line of weakness that is longitudinally aligned with the at least one separable connector. The two adjacent longitudinal sections of the glass fiber insulation blanket are thus separably connected via the separable connector, and the line of weakness of the facing facilitates separation of such adjacent sections. As discussed in the instant specification, Applicants have discovered that the above features of the faced insulation assembly, for example, can facilitate adjusting the size of the assembly on-site, and allow such assembly to be used over a wide variety of shapes of spaces to be insulated.

By comparison, in FIG. 6 and FIG. 8, *Walter* discloses the use of slit lines 65 and trim lines 63, 64 where the insulation web is slit and edge-trimmed into separate insulation strips 71. See col. 5, lines 14-16. Rotary disks 70 can be used to separate the insulation web into the strips 71. See col. 5, lines 48-50. Thus, *Walter* discloses dividing its insulation web into separate insulation strips. There is simply

no recognition or suggestion of a longitudinally extending separable connector connecting two adjacent longitudinal sections of the glass fiber insulation blanket, and a line of weakness of the facing that is longitudinally aligned with the at least one separable connector. The insulation strips in *Walter* are separated articles.

Furthermore, *Walter* does not disclose or suggest that the asphalt coating layer is not present in regions between the at least one longitudinally extending separable connector and the at least one line of weakness, as recited in claim 24. As noted above, *Walter* does not even disclose or suggest a longitudinally extending separable connector of the insulation blanket, and a line of weakness of the facing, let alone a region between such longitudinally extending separable connector and line of weakness.

Weinstein et al fails to cure the above-described deficiencies of *Walter*. In this regard, the Patent Office has relied on *Weinstein et al* for disclosing the use of a pre-cut fibrous insulation blanket which can be separated and sized at the job site. See Official Action at page 5. However, even if *Walter* and *Weinstein et al* would have been combined, such alleged combination fails to disclose or suggest that the asphalt coating layer is not present in regions between the at least one longitudinally extending separable connector and the at least one line of weakness. As can be seen in FIGS. 8 to 15 and throughout the *Weinstein et al* disclosure, the bonding agent layer between the facing sheet and the blanket sections extends over the pre-cut regions that are disposed between adjacent blanket sections. *Weinstein et al* has no recognition or suggestion that the bonding agent layer is absent from such pre-cut regions.

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Applicants have discovered that the above exemplary features of the faced insulation assembly, for example, can assist the user with the separation of adjacent longitudinal insulation sections and facilitate the installation of the insulation assembly. *Weinstein et al*, on the other hand, has no recognition or suggestion of such exemplary advantage of omitting a portion of an asphalt coating layer from regions between the at least one longitudinally extending separable connector and the at least one line of weakness.

Furthermore, the ordinarily skilled artisan would not have been motivated to modify *Walter* in view of *Weinstein et al*. In this regard, the Patent Office has taken the position that it would have been obvious to substitute the slit lines of *Walter* with lines of weakness, "in order to eliminate the need for cutting tools to separate the blankets that can lead to loss of time...." See Official Action at page 5. Applicants respectfully but strenuously disagree. As a result of employing the slit lines taught by *Walter*, the insulation strips are already separated from each other. Thus, if anything, the ordinarily skilled artisan would have recognized that substituting the lines of weakness for *Walter's* slit lines would lead to increasing installation time since an additional procedure of breaking the lines of weakness and separating the insulation strips would be necessary. Quite clearly, it would not have been obvious to modify *Walter* by substituting the slit lines thereof with lines of weakness.

The other secondary applied documents, i.e., *Timcik et al*, *Szwarc* and *Taylor et al*, fail to cure the above-described deficiencies of *Walter*. In this regard, the Patent Office has relied on *Timcik et al* for disclosing an odor reducing additive for asphalt. See Official Action at page 3. *Szwarc* has been relied on for disclosing an asphalt that is rendered fungi growth resistant by adding a growth inhibiting agent.

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See Official Action at pages 5-6. *Taylor et al* has been relied on for disclosing the use of a formaldehyde free binder used in glass fiber insulation that is an acrylic thermosetting binder. See Official Action at page 6-7. However, like *Walter*, such secondary applied documents do not disclose or suggest that the glass fiber insulation blanket comprises at least one longitudinally extending separable connector connecting two adjacent longitudinal sections of the glass fiber insulation blanket; the facing comprises at least one line of weakness that is longitudinally aligned with the at least one separable connector; and the asphalt coating layer is not present in regions between the at least one longitudinally extending separable connector and the at least one line of weakness, as recited in claim 24.

For at least the above reasons, it is apparent that independent claim 24 is non-obvious over the applied documents. Accordingly, withdrawal of the above §103(a) rejections is respectfully requested.

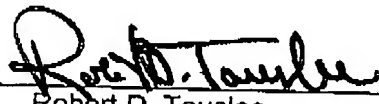
From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is believed to be next in order, and such action is earnestly solicited. If there are any questions concerning this paper or the application in general, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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